

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed this Application in light of the Office Action mailed November 7, 2003 (Paper No. 14). Claim 5 has been cancelled and Claims 13-17 have been added. Claims 1-4 and 6-17 are pending in this Application. Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Claims 10-12 are allowed and Claims 2-7 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant has amended Claim 1 to further define various features of Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates Examiner's careful review of the Application and indication that Claims 10-12 are allowed and Claims 2-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of Claims 5. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 1-4 and 6-9, as amended.

Applicant has added Claims 13-17 and respectfully submits that the claims are supported by the specification and add no new matter. As such, Applicant submits that Claims 13-17 are allowable.

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CONCLUSION

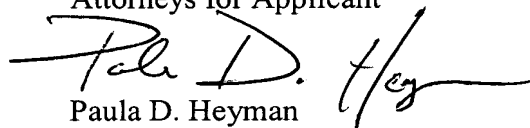
Applicant appreciates the Examiner's careful review of the application. Applicant has now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections and full allowance of Claims 1-4 and 6-17, as amended.

Applicant believes no fee is due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2581.

Respectfully submitted,

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